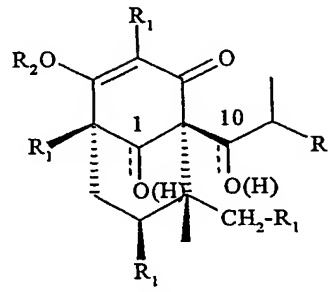
CLAIMS

1. Hyperforin and adhyperforin derivatives of formula (I)



(I)

in which R is methyl or ethyl, R_2 is hydrogen, a pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic or organic base cation or a straight or branched C_2-C_5 acyl residue, and in which, alternatively:

a) R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and oxo groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;

b) R_1 is 3-methyl-2-buten-1-yl and hydroxy groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;

c) R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and hydroxy groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions;

for use as medicaments.

2. Derivatives as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of medicaments for use in the treatment of depression and Alzheimer's disease.

3. Derivatives as claimed in claims 1 or 2 in which R_2 is hydrogen.

4. Derivatives as claimed in claims 1 or 2 in which R_2 is lithium, R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and oxo groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions.

5. Derivative as claimed in claim 4 in which R is methyl.

6. Derivatives as claimed in claims 1 or 2 in which R_2 is acetyl, R_1 is 3-methyl-but-1-yl and oxo groups are present at the 1- and 10- positions.

7. Derivative as claimed in claim 6 in which R is methyl.

8. A compound selected from:

dodecahydrohyperforin (**Ie**), dodecahydroadhyperforin (**If**), acetyloctahydrohyperforin (Ih) and acetyloctahydroadhyperforin (**Ii**).

9. Pharmaceutical compositions containing the compounds of claim 4.